

Radio KOHL is like 'the real world'

By Lily Shih
Contributing writer

"Radio Dog" Chris Vigil, 19, registered for a broadcasting class at Ohlone when he was still in high school.

"I remember I couldn't even pronounce Ohlone then," he said.

Now, well past that problem he is an announcer and the public affairs director at Ohlone's Top-40 radio station, 89.3 FM KOHL.

An average working night at KOHL for Vigil is to arrive two hours before his five or six-hour airshift, depending on the night. He writes and logs public service announcements for airplay and prepares for his shows.

Vigil uses the rest of his time for working part-time at San Francisco radio station KITS and San Jose radio station KEZR.

At KITS, he's a board/remote engineer and a producer for a Sunday morning public affairs show called "The Green Hour." At KEZR, he's an automation engineer and responsible for light production.

Vigil got started in radio because he always felt a strong pull towards the business.

One day he just decided to "do something about it," he recalls.

With the recommendation from friend and former KOHL student DJ Brian Lee (who is now a DJ for San Francisco's radio station

X100), Vigil choose KOHL as his training ground.

Essentially, KOHL is the only Top-40 college radio station in the Bay Area.

This matches the station's objective of training people for a career in broadcasting, he says.

More traditional college stations play "alternative music" and lack the strenuous structure that a trainee needs to prepare for professional work, he said.

"In the real world, commercial radio stations have to play music assigned to be broadcast unlike most college radio sta-

tions where the student dj can play his own records," Vigil clarified.

"In my opinion, KOHL has the best radio

program within the Bay Area. The managers, instructors and staff are truly brilliant," Vigil said. Aside from the fact that commercials aren't used, KOHL is really not much different from a real commercial station.

Vigil stresses that the station's controlled format and programming have helped him discipline and gear himself towards professional work.

"Their job placement list really speaks for itself," he said.

Many serious radio students from KOHL have landed radio-related jobs in big-market radio stations, especially in San Francisco. Located in Building 4, Room 201, the station displays a list of all the students that have been

or are in the radio industry.

Among these are: Scott Lewis, DJ at KOME in San Jose; Pete Smith, DJ, KWSS, San Jose;

and Shawn DeAngelo, DJ, KKIQ, Livermore.

Fellow classmates and friends from KOHL like Steve Herrera, a DJ at KHQT in San Jose, and Lisa St. Regis, a DJ at KMEL in San Francisco, have really inspired Vigil to pursue a career in radio.

In the past two years, Vigil has worked on-air at Stockton's KSTN and in music research and promotions at San Francisco's "X100", and San Jose's KWSS and KHQT.

He says that he owes a lot of his accomplishments to his friend and KOHL program director, Tom Gomez. "He has and continues to help me greatly.

His support and motivation have kept me on my toes, and the fact that he has been in radio for over 15 years has made him a great role model for me," Vigil said.

Vigil also credits his mother for her continual support. "Her understanding and caring have helped me more than I can express," he said.

With a solid background in radio and a lot of ambition, Vigil plans to send out demo tapes to radio stations around California. "I'd like to secure an air-talent position within the near future to further my career."

In the meantime, listeners can hear Vigil play "the Bay Area's best music," as they call it, on Ohlone's own KOHL

